

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS****Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) A port-sharing system comprising:  
a computing resource having a port; <sup>24, 34,</sup>  
a monitoring interface to said computing resource available via said port; <sup>24, 34, 30</sup>  
a plurality of end user devices to be connected to said monitoring <sup>+ 36 +</sup>  
interface; and <sup>40</sup> <sub>1, 24</sub> <sup>44 + 34</sup> <sub>28</sub> <sup>32(1, 2, 4)</sup>  
a liaison interface to handle communications from said plurality of end  
user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface <sup>26</sup> and to handle  
communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said  
communications from said end user devices, respectively.
  
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:  
said port is a first port;  
said liaison interface has a second port;  
said liaison interface is operable to connect to each of said plurality of  
end user devices via said second port while being connected to said computing  
resource via said first port.
  
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said liaison interface  
includes at least one handling daemon.
  
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is  
operable to give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices the  
impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.
  
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring system is  
operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are  
indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

6. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said computing resource is a mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status display page (SDP) interface.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is operable to:

receive and queue requests from said plurality of end user devices that are intended for said computing resource;

sequentially present the queued requests to said monitoring interface;

receive responses from said monitoring interface that correspond to said requests; and

present said responses to corresponding ones of said plurality of end user devices, respectively.

42 8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

said computing resource has multiple ports;

said monitoring interface is one of multiple monitoring interfaces available via said multiple ports, respectively;

said liaison interface is one of multiple liaison interfaces corresponding to said ports, respectively;

said plurality of end user devices is one of multiple sets of a plurality of end user devices; and

each liaison interface is operable to handle communications from one of said sets of end user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface and communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said requests from respective members of said one set of end user devices.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes a network ~~through which~~ that provides access to said port of said computing resource ~~can be had~~, and wherein said plurality of end user devices is operable as a terminal on said network.

10. (Original) A liaison apparatus between a plurality of end user devices and a monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the monitoring interface, the apparatus comprising:

a front input/output (I/O) unit to communicate with said plurality of end user devices;

a back I/O unit to connect to said port of said computing resource; and

a liaison unit to handle communications from said plurality of end user devices via said front I/O unit that are intended for said monitoring interface and to handle communications from said monitoring interface via said back I/O unit that correspond to said communications from said end user devices, respectively.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

said back I/O unit has a second port; and

said front I/O unit is operable to connect to each of said plurality of end user devices via said second port while said back I/O unit is connected to said computing resource via said first port.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said liaison unit is operable to give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices the impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitoring interface is operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said computing resource is a mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status display page (SDP) interface.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said back I/O unit, said front I/O unit and said liaison unit take the form of a daemon running on a network server, wherein the network is connectable to said computing resource.

16. (Original) A liaison method between a plurality of end user devices and a monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the monitoring interface, the method comprising:

connecting to said port of said computing resource;

connecting to said plurality of end user devices; and

handling communications from said plurality of end user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface and handling communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said communications from said end user devices, respectively.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein:

said port is a first port; and

connections to each of said plurality of end user devices are made via a second port of an intermediary processor while said intermediary processor is connected to said computing resource via said first port.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein each user of one of said plurality of end user devices is given the impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the monitoring interface is operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said computing resource is a mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status display page (SDP) interface.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said steps of connecting to said port, connecting to said plurality of end user devices and multiplexing are performed by a daemon running on a network server, wherein the network is connectable to said computing resource.

22. (Original) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a program to be processed by a server to cause said server to implement the method of claim 16.

23. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein payloads contained in the communications from said monitoring interface, that respectively correspond to said communications from said end user devices, differ substantially.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein payloads contained in the communications from said monitoring interface, that respectively correspond to said communications from said end user devices, differ substantially.

25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein payloads contained in the communications from said monitoring interface, that respectively correspond to said communications from said end user devices, differ substantially.

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